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SENATE BILL 1626

By Herron

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 56; Title 63 and Title 71, relative to dental services under TennCare.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, Chapter 5, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section to be appropriately designated:

Section 71-5-138.

(a) The state of Tennessee shall not contract with a managed care organization for the provision of dental services to TennCare enrollees as a part of a contract to provide the full range of services to the general population of TennCare enrollees. Any such contract in existence on the effective date of this act shall be amended, during the next available amendment period, to exclude dental services. Any such contract shall, as a matter of law, be interpreted to exclude dental services. As of the time of any renewal, amendment to or extension of such contract.

(b) By January 1, 2002, the state of Tennessee shall enter into a separate contract with one or more managed care organizations, for the provision of dental

services to members of the TennCare enrollee population, as a part of the TennCare waiver for the provision of medical assistance.

(c) If the provisions of this section conflict with the provisions of any applicable federal waiver concerning medical assistance services delivered pursuant to Title 71, Chapter 5, Part 1, then the commissioner of health is directed to seek an appropriate modification or amendment to such waiver to permit the implementation of this section.

(d) If any necessary waiver cannot be obtained by December 31, 2001, the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect sixty (60) days after the approval of the waiver amendment or modification.

SECTION 2. This act applies to contracts entered into, renewed or amended on or after the effective date of this act, the public welfare requiring it.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.